

**Teaching Techniques:**

\*Using a questionnaire passed out on the first day of class, have a student of the day or week; give them something significant or specific about them and as a class, figure out who it is by telling some things about the person

\*Give each student 5 m & m's. Each color represents a different area, for example, red = family, brown = movies, etc. Each student must tell a fact that relates to the color m & m.

\*Have a question and answer box in the room for anonymous questions. Answer the questions once a day/week

\*Create a world series/super bowl sheet for students; the winner will receive extra points, skip a quiz or assignment

\*Divide the class into pairs or groups; give each of them magazines that they can cut up; have them go through a find things they would like to purchase related to the day's topic (example – new things for a baby, new things for a room they're redesigning, new things for moving away to college, etc.)

\*Have questions or answers on papers taped to the bottom of chairs

\*Have words on word strips (big) posted around the room as students come in; have them go around the room and write them all down and discuss them or ask them what they think all of those words relate to; etc.

\*Make a bubble gum machine out of poster board; make bubble gum balls of different colors and write on them different words for that day's discussion. Put each one on the bubble gum machine as you discuss it; could pass out a piece of bubble gum to each student (could apply similar idea to light bulbs, etc.)

\*Develop a "recipe for..." or "pattern for..." relate it to the topic of the day

\*Make word strips about the days topics (just print off the computer); as you discuss each one, have the students come to the board and add it in the order of discussion; you could also have one word on each paper and have them try to put sentences together in different groups; each sentence could be its own color and then they have to figure that out and then put it in order. Each sentence could be a starter for each area of discussion for the day

\*Grab an item that you have on hand and have the students brainstorm what they could do that object that relates to the day's topic

\*Have students write a story. Provide a simple structure...maybe a setting, characters, a problem or goal, a resolution to a problem, etc. Give them two or three words or topics from the day's lesson and have them incorporate those into their story. Give them a time limit or break it up into sections. Students could each write their own story or you could have them write it in sections and at the end of each section, they'd pass their story on to someone else. Do that 3 or 4 times and then select a few to share with the class

\*Play balderdash with one or more of the words that will be taught in class that day. Have three index cards for each word, two will have a false definition and one has the actual definition; either have 3 students come up and read their definitions; the class will guess which one is correct

\*Play “chapter chase” with a textbook for your class. Students turn to the chapter that relates to today’s topic; you could give them a few minutes to read or just skim the chapter; the teacher asks a question about the chapter, the students search for the answer, when they find it, they need to have it open to the page and point to the paragraph, they call out a designated word or raise their hand, the student answers promptly or is disqualified. You could give treats, points or extra credit, etc. You could also do this silently and have them just write the page and paragraph # down or you could do it with a study guide

\*Have the student make a thinking map. These can be a circle map, bubble map, tree map, flow map, brace map

\*Give everyone a clothespin. Forbid a word from their vocabulary for the day. Arrange the students in a circle with chairs and have a class discussion. If a student says the word, then other students can steal their clothespin. Student with the most clothespins gets some kind of reward or prize.

\*Have students do a current event related to the course or topic; share as a class or in groups. You could share all in one day or spread them out throughout the quarter.

\*Do a texture bag with different items relating to the days topic. Students can only feel what’s in the bag. Have them guess and write down as many as they can.

### **Re-engaging Activities:**

\*Word or topic on board – write as many words as they can

\*Grab an item that you have on hand and have the students brainstorm what they could do that object that relates to the day’s topic

\*Brainstorming session – students think of the many and various \_\_\_\_\_ related to the topic for the day

\*Have students do “head, shoulders, knees and toes”

\*Give each student a laffy taffy, sort in groups and share jokes

\*Give students some brain teasers (either copy pages for them or just write them on the board, a few at a time.

\*Play “attitude in an envelope” – like charades; put different moods or emotions or situations in an envelope and have 1 or 2 students draw one out and act it out

\*Tell a couple jokes or have a riddle a day on the board that students can figure out and earn a square on their world series or super bowl sheet

\*Play Bingo

\*Make a graffiti board on a bulletin board or staple butcher paper to the ceiling

\*Play “chapter chase” with a textbook for your class.

\*Have students do an improvisation on the day’s topic or topics

\*Play musical chairs

\*Quickly have students play pictionary – give groups words related to the topic or have them write down some words and then mix them up and give them to another group and they draw or illustrate the word

\*Have students write a thank you note to someone

\*Play “Simon says”

\*Have students brainstorm or write something they’ve learned and then make a paper airplane – send it flying to someone else; they open it and add their thought and send it again. Do that a few times then have them stop and read the one they catch. You can share as a group discussion or have them write something about it.

\*Play “fruit basket” using the topics related to the class discussion for the day (could assign them to be specific things that are answers to questions and then you ask the question and if they are the answer, they move)

\*Make a “What Makes Me Happy” bulletin board

\*Write a progressive story – one student starts and then they pass it to the next person and they add to it and so on

\*Joggle

\*Develop a “recipe for…” or “pattern for…” relate it to the topic of the day

\*Toilet paper thing

### **Discipline:**

\*Place the letters Q U I E T at the front of the classroom. As students get noisy or off task, remove a letter; have a reward system if all letters are still up; maybe earn free minutes at the end of a class or earn a reward/treat, maybe a free tardy, etc.

\*Turn off the lights

\*Turn the radio on for a quick second

\*Blow bubbles at those that are disruptive or squirt them with a water bottle.

### **Games:**

\*play hot seat; ask a ?, students answer it on paper, call out hot seat and everybody moves; call on someone to answer – they use the answer on the paper in front of them

\*make up some type of “survivor” game

### **Dividing into groups:**

\*Break them up according to alphabet or birth months

\*Break them up according to things in their life. (everyone who uses crest stand up, everyone who ate cereal for breakfast, everyone who has a job, everyone who plays a sport, etc.) until they’re all in a group

- \*Place different strips of colored paper under chairs; divide them into groups according to which color they got
- \*Give them a number and assign them a spot as they come into the room
- \*Write halves of familiar pairs on slips of paper and have them find the person with the match. (example – peanut butter and then jelly, milk and then cookies, etc.)
- \*Four corners of room are the four seasons – go to whichever season you were born in
- \*Use uno cards – deal them and divide them up according to #'s, color, etc.
- \*Give each student a picture of an object that represents a basic shape. Place a larger picture with the same basic shape at different tables – they go to the shape/table that best corresponds to the shape of the object on the picture card.
- \*Students whose street address under 3000 are on one team. Students whose are over are on the other, etc.
- \*Add students who have one sister are on one team, students who have more than one are on another.
- \*All students who have a cat or a dog or a certain animal are on one team, etc.
- \*Divide students up according to what color shirt they have on

### **Time Fillers:**

- \*Fill a jar with questions; either discuss as a class or have students write responses in a journal
- \*Crosswords or word searches related to the subject
- \*Students design a bookmark containing the most useful information about the unit topic or the subject. (Can reproduce the most appropriate or best design and give to the class)
- \*Have them doodle a cartoon, comic strip, people, ads, greeting cards, poster designs, etc that relate to the topic
- \*Have students make a list of the “top ten reasons...” for whatever. They can be humorous, but will need to relate to the topic
- \*Collect odds and ends. Have students think of creative uses for the items. Brainstorm or even provide glue, scissors, tape, needle and thread, or other construction supplies and have them actually construct their design. Make it specific to a topic (ex – make a new toy or educational item for children using these things; create a new home décor item, etc.)
- \*Have students write a slogan that relates to the things we learned that day or about that unit; you can record all of the slogans on newsprint and post it or have them illustrate it and post it; could vote on the best one

### **Bulletin Boards:**

- \*Use fabric as a background – it doesn't fade and will last from year to year! ☺

\*Laminate the stuff that goes up so you don't have to keep re-doing

\*Students write their name on a paper with letters going vertically; give them markers or crayons, whatever...have them write a word that describes them for each letter in their name. Hang them up

\*Do 3 dimensional boards

### **Rewards/Incentives:**

\*Send a postcard home once or twice a week to parents telling some positive thing about their child (choose one or two students/week)

\*Have compliment papers; catch students doing something good; pass out a compliment

\*Choose one student/week in each class and award them a student of the week FACS card. The FACS card can be good for a hall pass, a treat, extra credit, etc.

### **Miscellaneous:**

\*Play mind "survivor." Have students pretend they are going to a desert island by themselves for one month. They can only take five items with them. (Assume that food will be available) Have them decide on those items and make a list and write why they chose each item. When they finish, have a class discussion on the items they chose. Ask some of the questions to stimulate their thinking. Why did they decide on those particular items? What influenced their decision? What process of thinking did they go through to choose? Were they choices to other in class? Would you make the same choice in 20 years? 30? Would your family agree with your choices?

\*Make a crossword puzzle about "life"

\*Create a wordsearch related to the current topic

\*Read "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss, showing the pictures. Discuss who thought they were the most important? And why? Least important? And why? How did they treat each other? What did their plan accomplish? What happens in society when we think we are better than others or one group thinks they're better than another group?

\*Have story time. Sit in a circle on the floor and read some children's books.

\*Write a tip or quote of the day on the board – keep a specific place for it

\*Choose a theme for each unit and change the room and surroundings to meet each theme – take notes or do assignments that relate to both the unit and the theme

\*Have a surprise visitor come to class every once in a while with a treat or reward that relates to the topic your on

\*Have a jar with FACS/FCCLA or classroom trivia questions. Read one each day and have a prize for the winner

\* Post students birthdays on the wall – celebrate birth and half birthdays

\*Keep a camera in your classroom – take pictures of different activities – post them in or outside the classroom – students love to see themselves on display! It makes them feel important.